

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) A high throughput method for screening fuel additive composition samples, under program control, comprising:

- (a) conducting molecular modeling of at least one fuel additive to formulate a leading candidate fuel additive composition sample for testing;
- (b) containing a plurality of the leading candidate fuel additive composition samples in a plurality of test receptacles, each sample comprising at least one fuel additive, wherein the plurality of leading candidate fuel additive composition samples is at least 20;
- (c) measuring the deposit formation of each sample to provide deposit formation data results for each sample, wherein the step of measuring the deposit formation of each sample comprises heating the sample to a first predetermined temperature and determining the weight loss of the sample after a first predetermined period of time; and,
- (d) outputting the results of step (c), wherein the results of step (c) for each sample are transmitted to a computer, wherein the computer compares the results with a predetermined value delimiting a failure or passing of the results, and the computer identifies failed samples to preclude further testing of the failed samples.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the at least one fuel additive is selected from the group consisting of detergents, cetane improvers, octane improvers, emission reducers, antioxidants, carrier fluids, metal deactivators, lead scavengers, rust inhibitors, bacteriostatic agents, corrosion inhibitors, antistatic additives, drag reducing agents, demulsifiers, dehazers, anti-icing additives, dispersants, combustion improvers and mixtures thereof.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the at least one fuel additive is a detergent.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic hydrocarbyl amines, hydrocarbyl-substituted poly(oxyalkylene) amines, hydrocarbyl-substituted succinimides, Mannich reaction products, nitro and amino aromatic esters of polyalkylphenoxyalkanols, polyalkylphenoxyaminoalkanes and mixtures thereof.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[68]] 64, wherein the predetermined temperature is from about 100°C to about 450°C and the predetermined period of time is from about 2 minutes to about 1 hour.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[68]] 64, wherein the weight loss of the sample is determined by thermal gravimetric analysis.

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[68]] 64, wherein the step of heating the sample is conducted in the presence of air.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[68]] 64, wherein the step of measuring the deposit formation of each sample comprises heating the sample to the first predetermined temperature and determining the weight loss of the sample after the first predetermined period of time and then heating the sample to a second predetermined temperature and determining the weight loss of the sample after a second predetermined period of time.

73. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[73]] 72, wherein the second predetermined temperature is higher than the first predetermined temperature.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the fuel additive composition further comprises an inert solvent.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein a robotic assembly selectively retrieves the samples from an array of samples and individually positions the samples in a testing station for determination of the deposit formation.

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76. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[76]] 75, wherein said robotic assembly is controlled by a computer.

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the step of outputting comprises storing the results of step (d) on a data carrier.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, further comprising the step of using the results of step (d) as a basis for obtaining a result of further calculations.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, further comprising the step of transmitting the results of step (c) to a data carrier at a remote location.

81. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein the fuel additive composition samples each contain less than about 50 ml.

82. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein the fuel additive composition samples each contain less than about 20 ml.

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83. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein the plurality of leading candidate fuel additive composition samples is at least 50.

84. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein the plurality of leading candidate fuel additive composition samples is 100 or more.